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REMARKS

The Applicant proposes the above amendment to claim 15 in order to overcome the Examiner's final rejection of that claim under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stacey (U.S. Patent No. 5,140,245) in view of Feingold (U.S. Patent No. 5,455,763).

The Applicant respectfully submits that it is appropriate for the Examiner to consider this amendment to claim 15 at this time, and within the Examiner's discretion to enter the amendment (see 37 C.F.R. Section 1.116(b)). The Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that this is the first opportunity that the Applicant has had to respond to the Examiner's arguments set forth in paragraphs 6-7 of the final Office Action.

As shown, amended claim 15 now recites, within the body of the claim, that the control signal used to control the excitation level of the alternator is based upon the first and second control signal components. Thus, claim 15 now clearly concerns a system that generates a control signal for controlling the excitation level of an alternator.

The Applicant further submits that, in contrast to amended claim 15, Stacey and Feingold alone and in combination fail to show a system that generates a control signal for

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controlling the excitation level of an alternator based upon first and second control signal components. As discussed in the previous responses of the Applicant, Feingold does not relate to the control of the excitation of an alternator.

As for Stacey, the Examiner indicated that element 41 (the "three-phase permanent magnet generator") of Stacey is an alternator. Nevertheless, because this element is a "permanent magnet generator", it is therefore an alternator having a constant excitation produced by the permanent magnet. Consequently, by definition, Stacey does not produce any control signal for controlling the excitation level of an alternator, since the alternator of Stacey has a fixed excitation.

For these reasons, as well as the reasons discussed in the Applicant's previous responses, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 is allowable over the cited references.

* * *

Conclusion

In view of the Applicant's amendment and Remarks being submitted herewith, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

As was discussed by the Examiner and the Applicant's representative on October 18th, the Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's representative at the

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number listed below once the Examiner has reviewed this amendment prior to taking any further action.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION SHOWING CHANGES TO CLAIMS

15. (Amended) A system for providing a control signal to control an excitation level of an alternator, the system comprising:

an outer loop means for providing a first control signal component based upon a plurality of output voltage indications from the alternator; and

an inner loop means for providing a second control signal component based upon at least one of the plurality of output voltage indications from the alternator;

wherein, the second control signal component provided by the inner loop means is updated at a more frequent rate than the first control signal component provided by the outer loop means, and

wherein the control signal to control the excitation level of the alternator is based upon the first and second control signal components.